

Target Zero Awards

Achievements in Traffic Safety

1. Category

- ☒ Impaired Driving
- ☐ Speed-Related Collisions
- ☒ Occupant Protection
- ☐ Run-Off-Road Collisions
- ☐ Intersection Collisions
- ☐ Traffic Data Systems

2. Entry Name

Project/Program Title: Catch and Release is for Fish.

Individual/Group Name: Washington State Patrol District 7 Detachment 5 & 6

3. Contact Information for person submitting entry

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4. Identify the project, program, or effort. This is the executive summary of the entry that describes

a) The situation or problem

East Snohomish County consists of many two lane highways including SR 2, SR 9 SR 522, SR 524, SR 204 and SR 92. All of these State Routes have been plagued with DUI / fatal / injury collisions. Many of victims of these collisions were unbuckled.

The BAC's in the APA were inspected for usage. The BAC at Snohomish PD had the greatest increase in usage compared to the others. The town of Snohomish has less than 9000 residents, but has 33 liquor licenses. Many local and visiting citizens drink in Snohomish and/or use 88th/2nd as a short cut between SR 2 and SR 9.

Combined with the fact the East Snohomish APA had one of the lowest seatbelt compliance rates in District 7 (around 95% - 96%) and the city of Snohomish had a compliance rate of 68% (March 2007), it was decided to develop a project.

The POPS project #07-0734-052 was headed by Trooper Lance Ramsay #1081.

b) Actions taken:

Regarding the Impaired Driving prong, the troopers would make a conscience effort to be patrolling during the DUI times. In this APA, we learned that mid-week it was 8pm to 10 pm. Otherwise, most of the drivers from the bars are already driving and the bars were empty.

We also decided to assist in the training and being available for our law enforcement partners, in particular officers from Snohomish PD, Lake Stevens PD, Sultan and Snohomish County Sheriff's Office.

One of the first things that Detachment 5 and 6 did was to live the theme – "Click it or Ticket."

The Washington State Traffic Safety Commission, WSP and NHTSA have done a fantastic job in the education portion of this project. It has been very well publicized. We would continue the education portion when appropriate; otherwise it would be 100% enforcement.

A Seatbelt Survey was conducted in the City of Snohomish in March 2007 with a result of 68 % compliance.

During the shift, troopers would communicate their efforts and results. The other team members would offer support and answer other calls for service.

Besides the troopers' normal shift, troopers in Detachment 5 and 6 participated in Night Time Seatbelt Emphasis.

c) The result

To compare the APA's activity 2006 to 2007 would not paint an accurate picture. The Detachment 5 in 2007 had only two non-probationary troopers, and one went on Military Leave in April 2007. There have been a total of nine probationary troopers, from one time or another, assigned to this Detachment.

In 2006, through November 11, East Snohomish County (APA 34) had six fatality collisions resulting in eight fatalities. One was alcohol related, one was not restrained and one is unknown. One collision was a motorcycle with helmet worn. One was not traffic related (heart attack.)

In 2007, through November 11, East Snohomish County (APA 34) had three fatality collisions resulting in three fatalities. None were alcohol related. Two were known to be restrained and one is unknown.

An overall 2006 vs 2007 comparison of APA 34 revealed fatality collisions were reduced by 40%. Alcohol related and confirmed unrestrained fatalities were reduced by 100%.

Detachment 5 and 6 had a decrease of total collisions in the APA by 18%.

All of the troopers worked very hard. However, Trooper Lance Ramsay as of November 23, 2007 has stopped and cited over 910 seat belt violators at 100% enforcement. (Two were also DUI.)

A seatbelt survey was conducted in the city of Snohomish in June 2007 with a result of 71% compliance, in September 2007 with 80% compliance and in October 2007 with 99% compliance.

The APA also enjoyed a 99% seatbelt compliance rate outside of the City of Snohomish on the State Routes in September and October 2007.

5. Specify the proven strategies, best practices, or innovative strategies with a strong evaluation component used.

DUI enforcement and Seatbelt compliance with enforcement and education continue to be one of the goals listed in the Department and District Seven strategic plan. Part of the strategic plan for the Department is creating partnerships.

A component of the strategic plan for District 7 in 2007 was to reduce the percentage of non-belted occupants in fatal collisions from 39% in 2006 to 29% in 2007. Detachment 5 and 6 has worked towards this and is demonstrated by the drastic drop of confirmed unrestrained traffic fatalities from 2006 to 2007 by 100% in the APA.

Another component was to reduce motorcycle fatality collisions from 3 in 2006 to 0 in 2007. We reduced motorcycle fatalities from 1 in 2006 to 0 in 2007 for 100% reduction.

As mentioned before, Detachment 5 and 6 had a decrease of total collisions in the APA by 18%.

It is clear that developing consistent enforcement and strategic plans at the departmental level, district level and the detachment level can have a positive impact on the goal of "Target Zero."

An emphasis once or twice a year does not change the behavior of a large group of individuals. The citizens must see consistent enforcement. No one agency should take on the burden of such major goal. It is critical that partnerships are supported at the all levels.

Detachment 5 and 6 has done this with both the DUI crack down with its training and availability for the other law enforcement agencies and the “click it or ticket” component.